



TOWN OF ACTON

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Planning Department

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

To: Don P. Johnson, Town Manager **Date:** October 28, 2004
From: Kristin K. Alexander, Assistant Town Planner, AICP *KKA R.V.*
Subject: EAV Green - Community Preservation Funds application

This past June, the Board of Selectmen placed the East Acton Village Green (EAV Green) as item 15 on the FY 2006 Town of Acton Capital Project Requests List to be submitted for 2005 Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding. The Planning Department is prepared to submit an application. There are two issues related to the project, however, that I want to bring to your attention and receive guidance on prior to submittal.

As you know, the Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) railroad right of way bisects the site. We have sent the EOT a letter requesting permission to do work within the right of way. As of today, we have not heard either way from the EOT. This issue could possibly delay the EAV Green project.

There are conceptual design plans of the EAV Green. Last year, the East Acton Village Planning Committee submitted the EAV Green CPA funding application requesting \$100,000 - the total estimated cost of improvements for the project¹. The cost estimate did not include engineered construction drawings. In the Planning Department's opinion, the next step in the project should be hiring an engineering firm to draw detailed construction plans of the EAV Green. We estimate that \$16,500 would be needed to hire an engineering firm's services (+/- 15% of the total cost estimate of the project based on the Cecil Group's quote). Construction drawings would also help the Town better understand overall project improvement costs.

Would you still like the Planning Department to submit an EAV Green 2005 CPA funding application on behalf of the Town? If so, would you prefer the funding request to be for \$100,000 or for \$16,500? Thank you.

¹ The Cecil Group, Inc., the landscape architect, estimated the total improvement costs at \$111,000, but the East Acton Village Planning Committee felt that the estimate was extremely conservative so proposed \$100,000 in the application. Later, the Committee reduced the funding request even further to \$70,000. The Committee was approached by some individuals who pledged significant donations to the project. We don't know how secure these pledges are a year later.